RG104 E-1 Box 122 Aug-Dec 1880

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,
MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT.

Philadelphia, 14th October, 1880.

Sir

The following tabulated Statement exhibits all the Deposits, consisting of mixed gold and silver bullion, made at the United States Mint at Philadelphia, during the fiscal year from July 1st 1879 to June 30th 1880, inclusive, and subjected to the process of parting. The figures express the total ounces of gross weight and of standard Weight of each metal

Gross Weight	Standard Gold	Standard Silver
130,879.38	78,414.164	51,897.97

Standard ounces of Gold and Silver returned from the Refinery and their Value

	Gold	Silver
Standard ounces	78,414.164	51,897.97
Values	$1,458,868.167	$51,897.97

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I have just stated that the same number of standard ounces was received from the Refinery as had been sent to it. In point of fact the amount returned in gold, is slightly in excess of that sent, arising from the gold, too small to be reported in the Silver deposits which were granulated with the gold in order to part the latter.

I kept an account of each lot of Gold Bullion refined monthly for my own personal security, but having no reason to suppose it had ever been called for or would be called for, I made no attempt at a division into kinds or classes of bullion, such as deposits of a particular kind, my own residues from melting, &c. Hence deposits of gold free from silver, but too hard or brittle for use, and deposits of silver without gold, but which I judged would be most economically or perfectly purified by acid, are so blended in that account with those legitimately partible, that to ascertain the amount of

the latter, and their amount after refining was abandoned as hopeless, after trying to do so for some days. Hence, altho there is a slight excess after refining the whole lot of bullion, its precise amount cannot be stated. My interview with the Director gave me a different understanding of the subject than I had at first; and Mr Mason, the M. & R. of the N.Y. Assay Office, had the same misunderstanding, which was rectified by the Director in person. I therefore resorted to the Treasurer's books to determine the amount of deposits to be legitimately parted.

To give from the Treasurer's books the sum of all the Gold deposits, would not have met the Director's intention, because there are numerous deposits of gold bullion, containing no silver and therefore not legitimate subjects of parting. I therefore drew off from those books such gold deposits as did not contain silver, and struck the balance between them and the total of Gold bullion deposited, to ascertain how much was legit-

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imately partible, and added to them those Silver purchases and deposits containing gold, in order to ascertain the total amount of partible bullion for the year. I know of no other way of determining the amount, and to effect it required fifteen pages of three columns of figures each, to be drawn off, collated and summed.

After this simple statement of facts, do you not think you may have misunderstood the Director's views, when you state that his request was so easily complied with, that a clerk could do this work in 6 hours? The allusion to defective accounts in my department I am obliged to reject as uncalled for, because no such account as you allude to was ever called for, and because I have sufficient grounds for saying that in no other of the U. S. Mints has an account of profit & loss in refining been executed, except my own account, specially established to give me a firmer feeling of security

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in my situation of enormous responsibility and subject to danger of loss, in manifold ways. Knowing now the Director's wishes as more fully developed on the new blank forms for refining, I shall endeavor to perfect the system of refining accounts, which I have less perfectly followed for the last few years.

I think that the full account I have given of the causes of delay, in executing the Director's wishes, fairly and fully, obliges me to repel the insinuation that my "explanation (in my letter of the 9th Inst.) "is given to cover an unnecessary delay" as uncalled for by fact, unjust to myself, and unworthy your position in this Institution.

Very Respectfully.

I & C Booth

M & R.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden

Superintendent.

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995¼

U. S. Mint, Melter and Refiner's Department,

PHILADELPHIA, PENN.,

Oct 14th, 1880.

Jas. L. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

Reports tabulated
~~Statement of Gross &~~
Std. Ozs. of mixed Gold
& Silver deposited during
fiscal year 1879-80, and
~~subjected to the process~~
of parting.

Reply to Supt's
suggestions of Oct. 13th

Note to M T. Oct 14.
O.L.B. No. 8. p. 85.

No. of Enclosures,

Rec'd Oct. 15th 1880.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 122

[Abstract:] Reports tabulated statement of Gross & Std. ozs. of mixed gold… 995 ¼

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Melting and Refining Department,
Philadelphia,
October 14, 1880

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Jas. C. Booth
M & R

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent.